

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25

NEA-14 RSC-01 DPW-01 SAJ-01 SCA-01 OMB-01 MC-02

ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 COA-02 DLOS-07

DRC-01 /204 W

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R 111700Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5323

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 8076

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ICRC, VN, VS

SUBJECT: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS

REF: STATE 119953

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON FOREIGN OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR UN AFFAIRS
VALENZA JUNE 11 TO URGE ITALIANS TO REPLY TO MAY 17 ICRC NOTE AND
OPPOSE PRG PARTICIPATION IN SUBJECT CONFERENCE. EMBOFF DREW FULLY
ON ARGUMENTS ADVANCED IN USG REPLY TO ICRC NOTE AND LEFT COPY WITH
VALENZA. EMBOFF ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO REVIEW CLOSE VOTE AT
GENEVA DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE WHICH REJECTED DRAFT RESOLUTION ON
INVITATION TO PRG TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE.

2. IN REPLY, VALENZA NOTED AT OUTSET THAT HE HAD NOT YET SEEN
MAY 17 ICRC NOATE WHICH HE ASSUMED HAD BEEN MISDIRECTED TO ANOTHER
OFFICE. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT HE AGREED WITH US REPLY THAT DIP-
LOMATIC CONFERENCE HAD DECIDED PARTICIPATION QUESTION AND THAT
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THERE IS LINK BETWEEN THAT CONFERENCE AND UPCOMING CONFERENCE OF

EXPERTS ON WEAPONS. CONSEQUENTLY, HE SAID HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT GOI REPLY TO ICRC NOTE SHOULD TAKE LINE OPPOSING PRG PARTICIPATION IN LUCERNE CONFERENCE. VALENZA PROMISED TO INFORM US AS SOON AS ICRC NOTE LOCATED AND FIRM DECISION TAKEN CONCERNING REPLY.

3. DURING DISCUSSION, VALENZA RECALLED THAT GOI HAD ABSTAINED ON PRG PARTICIPATION QUESTION AT DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE. WITH SOME HEAT, VALENZA EXPLAINED REASON FOR THIS WAS THAT THERE HAD BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING WITH THE US DELEGATION CONCERNING ITALIAN CO-SPONSORSHIP OF A RELATED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR TWO-THIRDS VOTE ON IMPORTANT QUESTIONS (E.G., PRG PARTICIPATION ISSUE). ITALIANS HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT ANOTHER EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COUNTRY WOULD JOIN THE US AND ITALY AS CO-SPONSOR AND WERE MORTIFIED TO FIND THAT ONLY OTHER CO-SPONSOR WAS SAN MARINO. CONSEQUENTLY WHEN RESOLUTION WAS ROUNDLY DEFEATED, GOI DECISION TO CO-SPONSOR WAS WIDELY RIDICULED AND CRITICIZED IN ITALY BY SOCIALISTS AND OTHERS. THEREFORE, WHEN PRG PARTICIPATION QUESTION CAME UP FOR VOTE, ITALIAN DELEGATION, SEEING THAT RESOLUTION WOULD BE NARROWLY DEFEATED, DECIDED TO GO ABSTENTION ROUTE TO AVOID FURTHER POLITICAL FLACK AT HOME. VALENZA NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT DESPITE GOI DECISION TO ABSTAIN, ITALIAN DELEGATION CONVINCED SAN MARINO TO VOTE AGAINST. CONCLUDING DISCUSSION, VALENZA INDICATED THAT, WHILE ITALIAN PRIDE STILL SMARTING FROM GENEVA CONFERENCE MIXUP, HE BELIEVED GOI WOULD REMAIN OPPOSED TO PRG PARTICIPATION IN LUCERNE CONFERENCE. BEAUDRY

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